

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 942896

SACRAMENTO 94296-0001



(916) 653-8394

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September 7, 1994

Mr. Steve Yaeger
Deputy Executive Office
Bay-Delta Oversight Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Yaeger:

As requested, I have reviewed the draft Briefing Paper on the "Impact of Outdoor Recreation on the Levees and Natural Resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Since you sent the draft to me directly, I can only respond with my personal perspective and not for my Department.

Given the time constraints in which this study was prepared and the general lack of current, comprehensive, statistically reliable surveys and data, I believe the draft Briefing Paper is quite good. I believe the issues and impacts have been properly identified and adequately discussed. I particularly liked the discussion of interrelationships. The issue analyses and action recommendations appear to be comprehensive and practical.

The only comments I would offer deal with where I believe you should go from here. These comments are as follows:

1. There is a crying need for statistically reliable, regionwide studies documenting and projecting recreation needs and demand.
2. With limited funding for public agencies likely to be with us for some time, creative opportunities for public-private partnerships need to be explored in their fullest.
3. There is a clear need to coordinate the recreation planning efforts of your Council and the Delta Protection Commission. The Delta should be considered a prime candidate for Bio-Regional planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Briefing Paper.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Demetrak
Staff Park and Recreation Specialist